

NEWS RELEASE

Sierra National Forest



For Immediate Release

Date: July 29, 2014 Time: 2:30 PM

Smoke Safety Information

Wildfires can spread rapidly giving only short notice to nearby residents and can quickly change air quality. Area residents impacted by smoke from the French Fire are advised to take steps to protect themselves from the potential hazards of smoke. Residents with respiratory issues or who are on oxygen should remain indoors at times when the smoke is greatest, typically during the morning and evening hours.

Avoid using evaporative or "swamp" coolers when the smoke levels are higher than normal because most have filter pore sizes that are much too large to filter out particles from smoke. If it smells like your evaporative cooler is bringing in smoke from the outside, it's best to turn the unit off until the outside air quality improves.

The same rule applies to automobile air-conditioning unless drivers use the vehicle's re-circulated air function if it has that option.

Residents may use refrigerated air conditioners but are advised to keep the fresh-air intake closed and the filter clean to prevent outdoor smoke from getting inside.

If it is too warm to stay indoors with windows closed at residences with no form of air conditioning, residents are advised to consider seeking shelter elsewhere during the times of day when smoke is adversely affecting air quality. During the day consider going to public libraries, senior centers or other public places that may have air conditioning.

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South Central Sierra Interagency Incident Management Team

Fire Information: (559) 877-2605

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For additional information visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4013/>